

## CHAPTER III.

XLV. Area.—LI. Physical Features.—LXII. Climate.—LXV. Meteorological Tables.

44. The name "Canada," as applied to this country, first appears in *Bref Récit de la Navigation faite en 1536-37 par Cap. Jacques Cartier*. The derivation generally accepted is that from the Indian word, "Kannatha," meaning a village or collection of huts, and it is supposed that Jacques Cartier, hearing this word used by the Indians with reference to one of their divisions, mistook its meaning, and applied it to the whole country.

45. The Dominion of Canada has an area of about 3,315,647 square miles, or, including its water surface, 3,456,383 square miles, is about 3,500 miles from east to west and 1,400 miles from north to south, and consists of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec (formerly Upper and Lower Canada), Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island and the North-west Territories (which latter contain the vast territory formerly under the control of the Hudson's Bay Company). It therefore, comprises the whole of the northern half of North America, with the exception of the United States Territory of Alaska on the west, and Labrador, which is under the control of the Government of Newfoundland, on the east. It is bounded on the north by the Arctic Ocean, on the west by the Territory of Alaska\* and the Pacific Ocean, on the south by the United States, and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean.

46. It is the largest of all the British possessions, embracing considerably more than one-third of the whole Empire. The continent of Australia is the next largest, having an area of 3,030,771 square miles, and the area of Tasmania and New Zealand added to this makes the total area 3,161,493 square miles, or 294,890 square miles less than that of Canada. The total area of the British Empire, according to official figures, is, exclusive of protectorates, 9,040,497 square miles. The combined area,

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\* The boundary line between Canada and Alaska is now the subject of an international survey.